

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, RP
SUBJECT: ROLE OF ASCOPE

REF: JAKARTA 4498

1. THE ASEAN COUNCIL ON PETROLEUM (ASCOPE) MAY GAIN ATTENTION IF EMBASSY JAKARTA'S PROPOSAL FOR THE USG TO SUPPORT A REGIONAL CENTER FOR ENERGY RESEARCH GAINS ADVOCATES. MR. APOLLO P. MADRID, MANAGER FOR EXPLORATION, BUREAU OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OF THE PHILIPPINES GAVE EMBOFF THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON ASCOPE.

2. PURPOSE. ASCOPE WAS FORMED TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION ON PETROLEUM. ITS FUNCTIONS ARE TO EXCHANGE NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION ON EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, REFINING, TRAINING AND CONSERVATION IN PETROLEUM. THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF ASCOPE TO DATE
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ACCORDING TO MADRID IS THE AGREEMENT FOR INTER-ASEAN PETROLEUM SHARING IN AN EMERGENCY.

3. ORGANIZATION. THE FIVE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ASEAN MAKE UP ASCOPE. IT OPERATES UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF ASEAN, BUT IS NOT PART OF THE ASEAN ORGANIZATION ITSELF. ASCOPE HAS THREE COMMITTEES - LEGAL, TECHNICAL, AND ECONOMIC. THE

LEGAL COMMITTEE IS STUDYING STANDARDIZATION OF LAWS, INFORMATION SHARING, AND A REGIONAL DATA BANK. THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IS STUDYING LUBRICATION, FUEL CONSERVATION, AND TRAINING. THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE HANDLES EMERGENCY SHARING. THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT SITS IN PERTAMINA AND IS MANNED BY INDONESIANS. EACH MEMBER NATION HAS A NATIONAL COMMITTEE WHICH IS STAFFED BY THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES. THE PHILIPPINES IS THE ONLY MEMBER COUNTRY THAT HAS A BROADER REPRESENTATION ON ITS NATIONAL COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BUREAU OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

4. FUTURE. THE FOCUS OF ASCOPE HAS BEEN PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT AND NOT ENERGY RESOURCES IN GENERAL. THE FIFTH NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF ASCOPE (AN ANNUAL EVENT OF TECHNOCRATS) HELD IN MANILA IN OCTOBER 1977 DECIDED THAT ASCOPE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON PETROLEUM MATTERS SOLELY. HOWEVER, BROADER ENERGY ISSUES WERE ADDRESSED AT THE FIRST (INTERNATIONAL) ASCOPE CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA IN NOVEMBER 1977.

5. MADRID FEELS ASCOPE COULD BE GIVEN A BROADER PERSPECTIVE BUT NOTED ONE RESTRAINT WOULD BE FACT THAT PHILIPPINES, IS ONLY ASEAN COUNTRY WITH AN INTEGRATED ENERGY MINISTRY.

6. EMBASSY MANILA WOULD APPRECIATE OTHER ASEAN POSTS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENTS ON ACCURACY OF ABOVE DESCRIPTION OF ASCOPE, AS WELL AS POSTS' VIEW ON POTENTIAL FOR ASCOPE TO ASSUME BROADER ENERGY PLANNING ROLE IN ASEAN. STULL

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